

REMARKS

The Office Action dated September 11, 2002, has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments and following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 1-3, 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Okajima et al., (U.S. Patent No. 5,334,993). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because Okajima et al. does not disclose teach or suggest all the features recited in amended claim 1.

Claim 1, as amended, recites a display device comprising a light source and a light guide plate for introducing light emitted by the light source to an incident surface on a side of the light guide plate and emitting the light from an emitting surface. Amended claim 1 also recites a non-light emitting display device which is illuminated by light emitted from the light guide plate and a holder for housing the light source, the light guide plate, and the non-light emitting display device. The holder includes a first holder having a back surface covering at least the entire back surface of the light guide plate and a second holder, covering at least the entire front surface of the light guide plate. In addition, the second holder has an opening with length and width dimensions corresponding to the length and width dimensions of a display area of the non-light emitting display device. Moreover, the second holder is formed dividably from the first holder, wherein a light source housing chamber for housing the light source having an opening corresponding to the incident surface of the light guide plate is formed by combining the first and second holders.

Unlike the holder of the present invention, the front holding member 112 of Okajima et al. merely covers the light source and extends to cover only part of the light guide plate 13 (See Fig. 4). The second holder of the present invention covers the entire front surface of the light guide plate and has an opening with length and width dimensions corresponding to length and width dimensions of a display area of the non-light emitting display device, as recited in claim 1. Okajima et al. does not teach or suggest a holder covering the entire front surface of the light guide plate and having an opening as recited in claim 1 of the present invention. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over Okajima et al. Thus, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Okajima et al.

Claims 2, 3, 7 and 8, depend from claim 1 and are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1 discussed above.

Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Okajima et al. as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Horiuchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5, 729, 310. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because the combination of Okajima et al. and Horiuchi et al. does not disclose teach or suggest all the feature recited in claim 4.

Claim 4, as amended, recites all the features of claim 1. In addition, claim 4 recites that the holder is dividable into at least first and second parts, wherein the first and second parts are connected by a flexible connecting part that attaches to the first and second parts, with the flexible connecting part being formed to be thinner than the first and second parts. As stated above, Okajima et al. fails to disclose teach or suggest the features of claim 1. Horiuchi et al fails to remedy the deficiencies of Okajima et al.

with respect to those features recited in claims 1 and 4 as it is merely cited for its frame connections.

Nevertheless, with respect to the frame connections, the combination of Okajima et al. and Horiuchi et al. does not disclose teach or suggest a holder dividable into at least first and second parts, wherein the first and second parts are connected by a flexible connecting part that attaches to the first and second parts, with the flexible connecting part being formed to be thinner than the first and second parts as recited in claim 4.

Horiuchi et al. merely discloses barbed ends 3 and recessions 10 disposed on the upper frame 1 and lower frame 2 of the apparatus. The upper and lower frames are fixed to each other by snapping the barbed ends 3 into the recessions 10. Thus claim 4 is patentable over the combination of Okajima et al. and Horiuchi et al. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Okajima et al. and Horiuchi et al.

Claims 5 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Okajima et al. as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Nagakubo et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,313,891). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because the combination of Okajima et al. and Nagakubo et al. fails to disclose teach or suggest all the features recited in claims 5 and 9.

Claims 5 and 9 depend from claim 1. As discussed above Okajima et al. fails to disclose teach or suggest all the feature recited in claim 1. In addition, Nagakubo et al. fails to remedy the deficiencies of Okajima et al. with respect to claim 1 as it is merely cited for its reflective surface 19b on the inner surface of the housing chamber and its printed dots on the reflector which control light quality. Therefore, claims 5 and 9 are

patentable over the combination of Okajima et al. and Nagakubo et al. Thus, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Okajima et al. and Nagakubo et al.

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Okajima et al. as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Yamada et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,704,703). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because the combination of Okajima et al. and Yamada et al fails to disclose teach or suggest all the features recited in claim 9.

Claim 9 depends from claim 1. As discussed above Okajima et al. fails to disclose teach or suggest all the feature recited in claim 1. In addition, Yamada et al. fails to remedy the deficiencies of Okajima et al. with respect to claim 1 as it is merely cited for its projections 313. Therefore, claim 9 is patentable over the combination of Okajima et al. and Yamada et al. Thus, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Okajima et al. and Yamada et al.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Okajima as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Kim (U.S. Patent No. 6,016,175). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because the combination of Okajima et al. and Kim fails to disclose teach or suggest all the features recited in claim 6.

Claim 6 depends from claim 1. As discussed above Okajima et al. fails to disclose teach or suggest all the feature recited in claim 1. In addition, Kim. fails to remedy the deficiencies of Okajima et al. with respect to claim 1 as it is merely cited for its projection parts 200 and 201. Therefore, claim 6 is patentable over the combination

of Okajima et al. and Kim. Thus, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Okajima et al. and Kim.


Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 1-10 and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability.

Should the Examiner feel that further action is required to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension time period. Any fees for such an extension of time, together with any additional fees, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300 making reference to Attorney Docket No. 107336-00000.

Respectfully submitted,

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MARKED UP COPY OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A display device comprising:

a light source[.];

a light guide plate for introducing light emitted by the light source to an incident surface on a side of the light guide plate and emitting the light from an emitting surface[.];

a non-light emitting display device which is illuminated by light emitted from the light guide plate[.]; and

a holder for housing the light source, the light guide plate, and the non-light emitting display device,

wherein the holder includes:

a first holder having a back surface [for] covering at least [a] the entire back surface of the light guide plate[.];

a second holder, covering at least the entire front surface of the light guide plate [having an],

wherein the second holder has an opening with length and width dimensions corresponding to length and width dimensions of a display area of the non-light emitting display device, and

wherein the second holder is [and] formed dividably from the first holder,

and

wherein a light source housing chamber for housing the light source having an opening corresponding to the incident surface of the light guide plate is formed by combining the first and second holders.

4. (Amended) [The display device according to claim 1,] A display device comprising:

a light source;

a light guide plate for introducing light emitted by the light source to an incident surface on a side of the light guide plate and emitting the light from an emitting surface;

a non-light emitting display device which is illuminated by light emitted from the light guide plate; and

a holder for housing the light source, the light guide plate, and the non-light emitting display device,

wherein the holder includes:

a first holder having a back surface covering at least the entire back surface of the light guide plate;

a second holder, covering at least the entire front surface of the light guide plate,

wherein the second holder has an opening with length and width dimensions corresponding to length and width dimensions of a display area of the non-light emitting display device, and

wherein the second holder is formed dividably from the first holder, and

wherein a light source housing chamber for housing the light source having an opening corresponding to the incident surface of the light guide plate is formed by combining the first and second holders,

wherein the holder[, which] is dividable into at least first and second parts,

wherein the first and second parts are connected [includes] by a flexible connecting part that attaches to the first and second parts, and [and the connecting part connects the divided holder]

wherein the flexible connecting part is formed to be thinner than the first and second parts.